

## Preface

RETI is a collaborative stakeholder planning process initiated as a joint effort among the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission), and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), together with publicly owned and investor owned utilities. RETI's work is undertaken by a 29-member Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) that involves a broad range of participants<sup>1</sup>, first to gather information and advice, and then to build active and consensus support for specific plans for renewable energy and related transmission development.

The ultimate goal of RETI's work is to identify major upgrades to California's electric transmission system needed to access competitive renewable energy zones (CREZs) sufficient to meet the state's energy targets. Phase 1 of this effort is to identify those CREZs that can be developed in the most cost effective and environmentally benign manner, as described in this report.

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The Phase 1A report, accepted by the SSC on May 21, 2008, described the methodology, assumptions and resource information to be used in Phase 1B of RETI project.<sup>2</sup>

This Phase 1B Report is a high-level screening analysis that applies the resource valuation methodology developed in Phase 1A. Potential renewable energy projects have been grouped into CREZs based on geographical proximity, development timeframe, shared transmission constraints, and additive economic benefits. As described in this report, CREZs have been ranked according to cost effectiveness, environmental concerns, development and schedule certainty, and other factors to provide a renewable resource base case for California.

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In Phase 2, the SSC will refine the analysis of CREZ generation potential, including project siting constraints, and will develop a statewide conceptual transmission plan. Phase 3 will advance this plan into proposals for specific transmission projects that can be approved, financed and built in order to provide renewable energy to customers across the state in the most cost-competitive and least environmentally harmful ways.

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Phase 2

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The requirement for new transmission facilities to meet California energy goals will be influenced by, among other things, future statewide electricity consumption and the deployment of generation technologies which do not require transmission, such as photovoltaic (PV) generation in urban areas. For purposes of transmission planning,

<sup>1</sup> For a list of SSC members, see [http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/steering/SSC\\_Member\\_List.pdf](http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/steering/SSC_Member_List.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The Phase 1A report is available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2008publications/RETI-1000-2008-002/RETI-1000-2008-002-F.PDF>. Note that this is a large file (9.9 megabytes.)